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MR. NELSON AVERSE TO TAKING CHARGE

Belief Expressed the President Does Not Want Appointing Power Over Schools.

QUESTION MAY BECOME CENTER OF DISCUSSION

House Committee Hearing on Centralization Scheme, Just Closed, Develops Opposition.

Following the conclusion of the hearing on the Johnson bill to change the existing school law and centralize power with the Commissioners, it became known that Chairman Lloyd's interesting suggestion that the President might be the proper appointing power for the board of education may become the center of discussion in the House. Members of the appropriations committee who are in touch with the White House have the firm impression that the President is desirous of taking on no more appointing power; in fact, the indications are he wants to drop some of that which he now has in reference particularly to District of Columbia matters.

The hearing came to a close late yesterday afternoon after the committee had received a score of suggestions and resolutions in protest against the proposed centralization scheme, showing the overwhelming public opinion against the measure.

Commissioner Newman and Corporation Counsel have been in the office since the hearing, and Representative Page, chairman of the subcommittee which handles the appropriations for the District, but forward the suggestion that the law be so amended as to give the Commissioners the power to appoint the board, but that no other respect should the law be changed.

Effect of Enactment.

Should his suggestion be enacted, the present school organization from the board of education down would remain exactly as at present; the board, the superintendent and every one else would remain with the same powers, authorities and functions. The Supreme Court of the District would make no more appointments to the board of education. That is all. The Commissioners would choose the administrators of the schools.

President Blair told the committee that, as far as he knows, he is the only republican president the board of education has had. When Commissioner Newman took the stand he said he had been informed the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia would be glad to be relieved of the task of appointing the board of education, and Chairman Lloyd supported him in the statement. Mr. Newman said that he was further informed that there was no preference as to what other appointing power should be chosen by Congress. The Commissioners answered at length the statement by Mr. Blair that the Commissioners had a merely ministerial function regarding the schools, and that it is a matter of grace alone by which the Commissioners take the advice of the board.

"Isn't it a matter of grace," asked Chairman Lloyd, "that they consult with you at all? Here is a body of citizens administering the schools without pay, advising you Commissioners who are paid for the job." "Yes," answered Mr. Newman, "that is true, too, and neither one is the right way to do business."

Mr. Newman Resents Imputation.

Mr. Newman declared that no one had the right to assume the Commissioners do not hold the schools close to their hearts, or that they seek "to wreck or Tammanyize the system." He said the Commissioners merited the assumption that they are decent and fair minded men.

Among those who appeared to register their protest against the Commissioners' plan, in the form of resolutions from associations, were: Charles S. Bundy, Columbia Heights Citizens' Association; C. N. Thompson, South Washington Citizens' Association; Dr. Charles M. Emmons, East Washington Citizens' Association; Charles Langenkamp, Henry D. Cooke, Parents' Association; Mrs. W. B. Bayles, Carbery Parent-Teacher's Association; Mrs. William B. Hardy, seventh division, Federation of Home and School; Mrs. Ada V. McKinley, Peabody Home and School Association; Mrs. Ellen Molten, Brookland Parents' Association; Mrs. N. H. Dorton, Mothers' Congress; Mrs. Charles R. Duval, Walloch Home and School Association; Mrs. Lyman P. Kebler, Parents' League; Mrs. F. L. Ransome, Collegiate Alumnae Association; Dr. E. B. H. Smith, Eckington Home School Association, and Mrs. W. B. March.

SUMMARIZES SCHOOL PLANS.

High School Teachers' Association Answers Commissioners' Argument.

In connection with the arguments against changing the plan of administration in the public schools of the District, as proposed by the Commissioners, the High School Teachers' Association has drawn up a summary of plans of administration which have been tried here. These have been submitted, with other data, to the subcommittee of the House District committee, which is conducting a hearing on the proposed plan.

An introductory note explains that "the general tendency seems to be to separate absolutely the schools from the city government."

First Plan, to July 1, 1900.

Here is the summary:

The Commissioners appointed superintendent and board of school trustees.

(No salary schedule for teachers.)

A. Defects as shown by report No. 711, Senate, Fifty-sixth Congress, first session, March 23, 1900:

1. One man was the superintendent as the representative of the Commissioner in charge of schools.

2. Teachers hampered by arbitrary rules as to details in teaching and by abolition of use of textbooks.

3. Friction between superintendent and teachers and between authorities and people.

4. Board of school trustees merely advisory.

5. Constant turmoil and confusion.

6. Conclusion of committee reporting bill:

"A lack of properly organized system is, in the opinion of the committee, the principal source of the very many defects and alleged defects in the existing system of the public schools of the District of Columbia."

Believing that the true remedy, as far as Congress is concerned, is to provide a competent, well defined powers of education, with well defined powers, every subject connected with the management of the public schools, improve their methods and make them efficient, the committee, therefore, does not recommend detailed legislation.

"The committee believes the defects

(and there are many which the committee regard as grave errors) are more the result of the system than of intentional wrongdoing on the part of any one connected with the schools."

C. The bill submitted by the Senate committee, of which William Stewart was chairman and Jacob H. Gallinger leading member, provided that there be a complete divorce of the public school department from the control of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, and requiring it to report to Congress.

The bill as it passed Congress left the control of the material interests in the hands of the Commissioners and provided for the second plan.

Second Plan, to June 20, 1906.

The Commissioners of the District of Columbia appoint the board of education, which appoints superintendent, teachers, etc. (No salary schedule for teachers.)

A. Defects as shown by report No. 3395 and hearings, Fifty-ninth Congress, first session, April 20, 1906:

1. Control by civilian Commissioner over educational interests; control by the Commissioner over material interests of the schools.

2. When educational interests conflicted with material interests of the city (such as the fire, the police and the engineering department), the educational interests always yielded.

3. Board, not superintendent, seemed to be supreme in educational matters. Constant interference.

4. Teachers' salaries, starvation wages; were leaving in ever-increasing numbers and finally forced to band themselves together to obtain increased salaries and a salary schedule.

5. Lack of economical administration on the part of the Commissioners in locating and erecting school buildings.

B. Some of the conclusions of the subcommittee reporting the bill:

"There does not seem to be a clearly defined plan, whether in regard to the arrangement and size of the building, or the course of studies for the children of the school system with due regard to a judicious economy."

"The bill as it passed Congress contained provisions as follows:

"That a commission, consisting of a superintendent of schools, the engineer Commissioner and the supervising architect of the Treasury Department, is hereby created for the purpose of submitting to Congress a plan for the beginning December, 1906.

"First: A general plan for the consolidation of the public schools in the District of Columbia and the abandonment and sale of such school buildings and sites as may by them be deemed necessary and desirable for the best good of the public school service.

"Second: A general plan for the character, size and location of school buildings in accordance with which the educational and business interests of the public school system may be subserved."

And provided further for the third plan.

Third Plan, to Present Date.

Judges of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia appoint the board of education, which appoints superintendent, teachers, etc. (Salary schedule amended to the benefit of teachers, 1905, 1910, 1912.)

(Note—Teachers forced to incur heavy legal expense to obtain from the courts the rights to salaries granted them by Congress, but denied them by authorities foreign to the board of education.)

Proposed Plan of Commissioners.

Commissioners' plan to abrogate third plan and return to first plan (probably second plan) given before.

Another possible plan:

Complete and absolute separation of school interests, material, educational and financial, from the District government to be lodged in the present board of education as constituted, in accordance with general tendencies and actual practice of many progressive cities.

MISS WHEELER OUTLINES PLANS FOR "BABY WEEK"

Tells Twentieth Century Club About Event to Take Place Here in April.

Plans for "Baby week," which is to be celebrated all over the country and in Washington during the first week in April, were outlined to the civic section of the Twentieth Century Club yesterday, at All Souls' Church, by Miss Wheeler of the children's bureau of the Department of Labor. Mrs. Gilbert A. Grosvenor presided.

Mrs. T. L. Macdonald announced that the first-aid class which has just been formed and the home nursing classes started were full strength in membership, and that another class will have to be formed.

The war relief committee, of which Mrs. Ernest Bicknell is chairman, made a plea for more money to buy clothing to send to the war sufferers. She said that already two boxes had been shipped to Poland and two to France.

Mrs. Bicknell also announced an entertainment on February 10, at the home of Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell, for the benefit of this fund.

Mrs. George F. Bowerman, chairman of the legislation committee, made a report on the bills before Congress in which the women are interested. There was a general discussion on the proposed public school change.

Will Discuss "Student Work."

Miss Ruth M. Keeney, educational secretary of the Y. W. C. A., is announced to speak before the Volunteer Workers tomorrow evening at 7 o'clock, her topic being, "Student Work." Miss Keeney spoke Tuesday before the group of Volunteer Workers, which meets regularly on that morning at 10:30 o'clock. "City Work" was the subject discussed.

Frederick William Kitch Dead.

Frederick William Kitch, forty-two years old, a clerk in the census office since 1900, died Wednesday at his home, 1827 15th street northwest. Funeral services were held this morning at 9:30 o'clock at St. Paul's Catholic Church, 15th and W streets northwest. Mr. Kitch was a native of Kentucky. His mother and a brother living in North Dakota, survive him.

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TELLS HOW WORLD NEWS IS GATHERED

Melville E. Stone Gives Picture of Workings of the Associated Press.

BIG UPSET WAS CAUSED BY THE WAR IN EUROPE

Established Connections Dislocated, and New Service Had to Be Organized.

Melville E. Stone, general manager of the Associated Press, described the activities of that great news-gathering and distributing organization Wednesday night in an address before the Franklin Institute of Philadelphia. Of particular interest was his account of how the Associated Press, when the outbreak of the present world war disrupted its carefully organized news-gathering facilities, went to work and built up a new system to supply the American public with all the facts obtainable regarding the gigantic struggle.

"As you pick up your daily newspaper, issued to you for the smallest coin that is minted by the government—filled, as it is, with a vast bulk of information gathered from every habitable spot on the globe—if you have anything like an inquisitive mind, you are sure to be amazed," said Mr. Stone. "It must interest you to know how all this so-called 'news,' good and indifferent, important and trivial, from near places and from the uttermost parts, is collected, transmitted and delivered to you at so small a cost. Well, this I shall strive to tell you."

Originated in America.

"Also, it may gratify you to remember that this business of systematic and comprehensive news-gathering is an American enterprise. It originated here, and here it has reached its most perfect development. The work began in the early days of the last century."

Continuing, Mr. Stone described early news-gathering and the changes wrought by the telegraph, the cable and the wireless, and the rapid increase in the number of news-gatherers.

"And how does it operate? First, there is something in the very nature of each owning a daily newspaper and each having a vote in determining the management of the paper. The very nature of every angle of every fact or item outside the walls of Bedlam."

"And not only each member, but every employee of every member—may, more, every reader of every one of these daily papers, has the right of judgment on the service which the Associated Press is rendering."

Criticism Is Welcomed.

"This criticism was expected by those of us who founded the institution, and it is not at all to be deplored. It is the thing which safeguards an honest and truthful service of news to you. There are competing organizations, and their rivalry tends to celebrity in gathering and presenting the news. I do not undervalue this feature of our work, yet I regard its reputation for truthfulness and strict impartiality as the best asset of the Associated Press."

"It is far less important that you get prompt news than that you get true news. Every one familiar with our work knows that it is utterly impossible for any one in the service, from the general manager to the least important agent at the most remote point, to send an untruthful dispatch and escape detection."

"You may write a biased or inaccurate statement for a newspaper, and get away with it, but you cannot do so with the Argus-eyed millions who read the dispatches of the Associated Press. The very magnitude of its work tends to make truthfulness and impartiality imperative."

Ready to Correct Errors.

"If we have made an error we have, and always will, correct it in the most straightforward and ample fashion. We have no squeamishness about this. I am convinced that there is no tyranny greater than that of the printed word, and that a newspaper loses nothing."

5c

Oysterettes

There was a time when oysters were eaten without Oysterettes, but it was before these flaky little crackers were made. But now

Oysterettes

The Oyster Cracker

are eaten and enjoyed with soups and other things as well as oysters.

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but gains greatly, by an honest confession of error. It is not easy to establish a reputation for infallibility; it is very easy to secure a reputation for integrity if it is deserved."